

Message Text

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63

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107160

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 107160 ACTION HONG KONG, KUALA LUMPUR
INFO SINGAPORE BANGKOK JAKARTA MANILA GENEVA USUN NEW YORK
TAIPEI AND CINCPAC 8 MAY, AND REPEATED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC
POSTS 8 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF,

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF SELF-EVACUATED VIETNAMESE AND
CAMBODIANS

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 2461 (B) HONG KONG 4950
(C) HONG KONG 4951

1. AS HAS BEEN STATED IN PREVIOUS DEPTELS, U.S. POLICY,
AGREED BY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, IS TO
INTERNATIONALIZE INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROBLEM TO MAXIMUM
POSSIBLE EXTENT.

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2. U.S. HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEMPORARY ASYLUM, CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF THOSE REFUGEES EVACUATED BY U.S. OR RECEIVED ABOARD U.S. CARRIERS. THESE PERSONS ARE BEING MOVED TO GUAM AND WAKE. THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AND DESIROUS OF PAROLE ARE BEING BROUGHT TO THE THREE RECEPTION AREAS WITHIN CONTINENTAL U.S. OTHERS ARE BEING SCREENED IN GUAM FOR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ICEM AND UNHCR AND BY CONSULAR OFFICERS OF CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. U.S. DOES NOT REPEAT NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHER INDOCHINESE REFUGEES INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE SUBJECTS OF REFTELS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL

PRACTICE, THESE ARE IN FIRST INSTANCE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER THOSE COUNTRIES ARE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION OR PROTOCOL ON THE STATUS OF REFUGEES. QUITE APART FROM THIS, HOWEVER, SIMPLE HUMANITARIANISM WOULD REQUIRE THAT COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM WOULD GIVE AID AND TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO SUCH REFUGEES AND REFRAIN FROM FORCING THEM INTO SITUATIONS OF DANGER TO THEIR LIVES.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT BURDEN OF SELF-EVACUATED REFUGEES FALLS MOST HEAVILY ON COUNTRIES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM. THIS IS ANALOGOUS TO POSITION IN WHICH AUSTRIA, GERMANY, ITALY AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE REPEATEDLY FOUND THEMSELVES SINCE WORLD WAR II BY VIRTUE OF LARGE REFUGEE MOVEMENTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE. AS IN THOSE EARLIER CASES, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS PRESENTLY CALLED UPON TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN ON COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. THIS CAN BE FACILITATED IF COUNTRIES OF INITIAL ASYLUM WILL REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF UNHCR AND ICEM. AS ADDRESSEE POSTS AWARE, DEPT. HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED U.S. AMBASSADORS AROUND THE WORLD TO APPROACH GOVTS WITH REQUEST THAT THEY RECEIVE INDO-CHINA REFUGEES FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT. FAVORABLE RESPONSES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. UNHCR AND ICEM ARE INFORMED AND WILL FOLLOW

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UP TO TRANSLATE RESETTLEMENT POTENTIALS INTO ACTUAL RESETTLEMENT.

5. BY SEPARATE MESSAGES WE ARE AUTHORIZING USE IN SINGAPORE OF SOME PL480 FOOD AND MULTIVITAMINS FROM AID/FDRC STOCKPILE FOR REFUGEE RELIEF. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THIS HUMANITARIAN AID IS NOT REPEAT NOT MISINTERPRETED TO INDICATE THAT U.S. IS ASSUMING

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEES. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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